

DAILY NEWS

Red Bluff Adult ed cuts to hinder seniors

By TANG LOR -DN Staff Writer

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Adult students learning how to use the Internet and e-mail in a computer class say they will have nowhere to go now that the class will not be offered again.

The computer class is just one of several adult programs in the Red Bluff Union High School District that will not be offered next school year.

Students in the computer class, who range from 40 to 90 years old, say they need the class to keep up with the rest of the world.

Barbara Stone said she attends the class because there is only so much that she can do nowadays without using the Internet.

"When you get something it always says if you want more information go to so and so dot com," she said.

Stone and a few other classmates said they have taken computer classes through other sources, such as the Red Bluff Community and Senior Center, but those classes were either too advanced or didn't provide them with the information that they needed.

"This class has really helped and it's sad to know it will be gone, especially for those who need to know how to use a computer," Stone said.

Marilyn Fitzgerald said there is no way she would have learned how to use a computer if she was not taking the class.

"I don't know of any other program like this," she said. "I am just sick to think it's going away." Fitzgerald said she appreciates teacher Christy Vail's

slow-paced style of teaching and her willingness to repeat and help each student understand what the student is doing before Vail moves on.

Vail said some students who take the class have never touched a computer mouse before. They enjoy the slow, non-threatening environment. The classes are free and some people take them to socialize with others while they learn. Many have taken the same class three times.

"Losing the computer classes will leave a very big hole for some people," Vail said.

There are at least 50 people who take the computer class. There are multiple sessions held on Mondays and Wednesdays.

Now that she knows the class will not be offered again Charlotte Graham hopes to be able to learn everything she can before the class ends, she said.

Graham has taken several adult classes, including those offered through Shasta College. Losing classes for adults will make it hard for them to keep up, she said.

"The older population needs to keep pace with some of the modern equipment and help energize our brain power," Graham said.

The computer class will not be the only class eliminated next school year. All adult education programs will be gone. Other programs include services to the jail, classes for adults who are trying to earn their high school diplomas, services for students who are credit deficient and bilingual services.

Rick Whetstone, the high school's department chairman for the Adult Education Program and independent study, declined to comment on the program and its elimination, referring questions to the district.

When the decision was made in February, Superintendent Dan Curry said the cuts had to be

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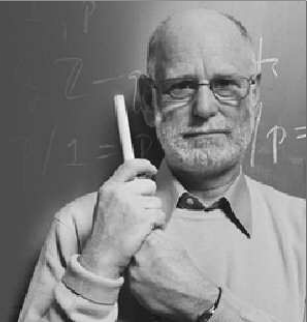


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